

REMARKS

Claims 35-38, 47-131, 135, 139, 143-145, 147-149, 151-153, 155-157, 159-161 and 163-165 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 35, 48-50, 79, 98, 131, 144, 145, 148 and 149 are amended and claims 39-46, 132-134, 136-138, 140-142, 146, 150, 154, 158, 162 and 166 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 41-102, 104-130, 132-162 and 164-166 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, Applicants submit amendments to claims 35 and 131 are believed to incorporate those limitations which the Examiner has previously indicated as allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 35 and 131 are patentable over the asserted teachings of Noriaki et al. (JP 11-287630). Further, it is respectfully submitted that claims 36-38, 47-130, 135, 139, 143-145, 147-149, 151-153, 155-157, 159-161 and 163-165 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 35 and 131 from which they respectively depend as well as for the features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 154-155 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants have deleted the typographical error that was between claims 154 and 155 and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

Claims 79, 86, 93, 98, 100, 105, 107, 112, 114, 119, 121, 126, 126, 148, 149, 152, 153, 156, 157, 160, 161, 164 and 165 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 79, 98, 148 and 149 to correct the typographical errors.

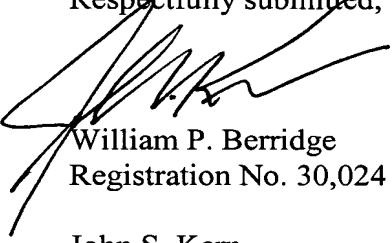
Claims 35-130 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claim 35 to further support that the claimed

invention does produce a tangible result. Support for this amendment can be found at least at page 9, lines 24-26 of the present specification.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 35-38, 47-131, 135, 139, 143-145, 147-149, 151-153, 155-157, 159-161 and 163-165 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 16, 2006

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